

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Attached hereto is a Replacement Sheet of formal drawing Figure 10, which has been amended to include a --PRIOR ART-- legend because only that which is old is illustrated therein.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1-9 are amended and Claims 10-15 added. Because support for the claim amendments and newly recited subject matter is presented in the originally filed application, see page 13, line 19 to page 15, line 4 and Figures 4-7, for example, Applicants respectfully submit that no new subject matter is presented.

Drawings

Figure 10 is objected to by the Office Action and should be designated by a legend, such as Prior Art, because only that which is old is illustrated therein. Applicants enclose herein a Replacement Sheet of Formal Drawing Figure 10, which has been amended to include a --Prior Art-- legend. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Specification

Applicants have amended the Specification herein to correct formal matters noticed therein by the Applicants as well as to correct a typographical error.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 2, 5 and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended the claims in a manner believed to be responsive to the rejection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-15 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0068110 to Matsui et al. (Matsui); and under

103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,955,476 to Murai. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the following reason(s).

Claims 1 and 6 each recite, among other features, a cage that includes a pair of annuluses, a plurality of columns interconnecting the annuluses, and a plurality of pockets defined therein for receiving cylindrical rollers between adjacent columns, wherein ***each column is provided with a pair of tongues extending radially away from a base that is parallel to a corresponding annulus.***

Applicants respectfully submit that Matsui and Murai each fail to disclose, teach or otherwise suggest the columns of their respective cages including such features.

For example, Matsui teaches each column 23 includes a side face 23a that is formed to have a cylindrical shape with a diameter that is greater than the outer diameter of the cylindrical roller disposed opposite thereto along with a pair of inner and outer run-out preventing engagement portions 23b, 23b. Applicants respectfully submit that Matsui fails to disclose, teach or otherwise suggest that the run-out preventing engagement portions 23b extend radially away from a base that is parallel to a corresponding annulus. Applicants respectfully submit that if Matsui did disclose, teach or suggest that the engagement portions 23b extended radially away from a base that is parallel to a corresponding annulus, such features would be evident in at least Figure 2, which they are not.

Applicants respectfully submit that Matsui fails to disclose, teach or otherwise suggest each and every feature recited by Claims 1 and 6.

Similarly, Murai is totally silent as to the pocket surfaces 1b corresponding to the inner surface of the columns 3 having a pair of tongues that extend radially away from a base that is parallel to a corresponding annulus.

Applicants respectfully submit that Murai fails to disclose, teach or otherwise suggest each and every feature recited by Claims 1 and 6.

To qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, each and every feature of a rejected claim must be disclosed, taught or at least suggested by the applied art of record.

Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not consider it obvious to modify the columns taught by Matsui and Murai to include the feature recited by claims 1 and 6 absent an articulated motivation to do so.

As noted above, Matsui and Murai each fail to disclose, teach or suggest each and every feature recited by independent Claims 1 and 6. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 6 are not anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Matsui and/or Murai and should be deemed allowable.

Claims 2-5 and 10-12 depend from Claim 1. Claims 7-9 and 13-15 depend from Claim 6. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable for at least the same reason(s) Claims 1 and 6 are allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

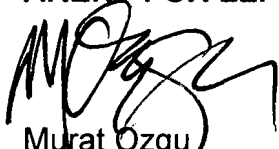
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objection and rejections, allowance of the Claims 1-15, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 100725.00123**.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Replacement Sheet of Formal Drawing Figure 10

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